



## Wisconsin Department of Transportation

[www.dot.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov)

Scott Walker  
Governor

Mark Gottlieb, P.E.  
Secretary

Division of State Patrol  
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P. O. Box 7912  
Madison, WI 53707-7912

Telephone: 608-266-3212

February 4, 2013

Shawn Musgrave  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 2730  
PO Box 55819  
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Dear Mr. Musgrave,

This letter is in response to your open records request letter to the Wisconsin State Patrol received February 3, 2013. You requested the following:

1. any requests for proposals, proposals submitted by vendors, contracts, budgets or cost allocations for the purchase, research of and/or use of aerial drones, UAs, UAVs, and UASs (hereinafter "drones");
2. any policies, guidelines, manuals and/or instructions on institutional use of drones, including on the legal process required (such as a warrant or court order), if any, before operating a drone;
3. any departmental records concerning this institution's use of and/or research of drones now or plans to use drones in the future including:
  - a. the types of investigations or instances in which this department is using or plans to use drones, or how it plans to support, manage or oversee the usage of drones by another department or office;
  - b. policies, guidelines, manuals and/or instructions on storage requirements or procedures for video or static images obtained through use of drones, including retention times;
  - c. the altitude at which drones can or do fly;
  - d. drones' ability to carry weapons.

The Wisconsin State Patrol has not researched and does not use aerial drones, UAs, UAVs or UASs. Therefore, your request cannot be satisfied, as no such records exist. Under Wisconsin law, if no records exist, the records custodian should inform the requester. See *State ex rel Zinngrabe v. Sch. Dist. of Sevastopol*, 146 Wis. 2d 629, 431 N.W.2d 734 (Ct. App. 1988).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the State Patrol Budget and Policy Supervisor, Shannon Ballhorn, at (608) 267-3146, or [ShannonP.Ballhorn@dot.wi.gov](mailto:ShannonP.Ballhorn@dot.wi.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ben N. Mendez".

Benjamin Mendez, Colonel  
Wisconsin State Patrol